

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
FEDERAL AID PROJECT
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

Grant Number: E-5-HP

Grant Segment: 1

Grant Title: HCP Alaska Coastal Species: Studies Related to Listed/Candidate Marine Birds

Project Number: 4.0

Project Title: Susceptibility of Eiders to Impacts of Coastal Wind Generation Facilities

Project Duration: February 28, 2003 to December 31, 2005

Project Reporting Period: February 28, 2003 to February 28, 2004

Project Interim Report Due: May 29, 2004

Location: Statewide

Project Objectives:

The objectives of this component are:

1. Facilitate the testing and evaluation of ground observations and radar observations to detect and quantify movements of eiders near potential wind-generation sites in coastal areas.
2. Assist in the collection of data on eider occurrence and movements at Gambell (particularly in fall) and Hooper Bay (particularly in spring) to evaluate feasibility and siting considerations for wind generation facilities.
3. Contribute toward development of a database on seasonal waterfowl movements in areas of western and northern Alaska as related to potential windfarm developments.
4. Attempt to document mortality of eiders at towers already in place (e.g., FAA, communications) at Gambell and Hooper Bay.

Summary of Project Accomplishments:

1. Testing and evaluation of ground observations and radar observations— Designed the sampling strategy, data-collection formats, and sampling schedule for the study. Consultant also coordinated with AVEC on the sampling.
2. Evaluate feasibility and siting considerations for wind generation facilities at Gambell and Hooper Bay— AEA and AVEC staff met with USFWS personnel. Consultants met with local stakeholder groups at Hooper Bay prior to data collection.
3. Development of a database on seasonal waterfowl movements in areas of western and northern Alaska as related to potential windfarm developments—evaluating the concept and potential contributors.
4. Document mortality of eiders at towers already in place— Field monitoring and data collection for 20 days. These data consisted of visually determined movements, numbers, and species-composition of birds moving near the proposed windfarm during the period when Spectacled Eiders first arrive on land on the YKD prior to breeding in spring.

Problems or Deviations from Work Plan: No deviations from Work Plan.

Anticipated Focus Next Reporting Period: Continued monitoring and evaluation of data.

Interim Project Costs (estimated): Costs below reflect commitment of funds from ADF&G to AEA and contracts to AVEC. Contract fieldwork began in April, so only a small portion of project funds have been expended.

Federal share	\$60,000
State share	\$20,000
Total	\$80,000

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Report Date: May 24, 2004